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**Mentoring Fatherless Children**

**101**

***INCLUDES A FIVE-YEAR CURRICULUM***

**Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide mentors of fatherless children with a helpful roadmap for mentoring! You will notice that it draws from other resources listed on our resource portal.

As you move forward, saturate everything in prayer, remain flexible and plan all activities with the utmost intentionality!

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Some content, techniques and research in this manual were leveraged from The National Fatherhood Initiative

www.fatherhood.org | www.fathersource.org

# Getting Started

*James* 1:27 in the Bible is referred to as the “Great Mandate.” It states very clearly that the church carries the responsibility of caring for orphans and widows. We believe that single-moms and fatherless children fall under this category. We commend you for taking the Great Mandate seriously!

If you have already begun to serve fatherless children, you can skip to the next section.

The first step to mentoring fatherless children is to start developing relationships with fatherless children. We recommend starting in your local church. Start developing an awareness of who the single-moms and fatherless children are within the ranks of your own congregation. Most of the time, they go unnoticed. You can also search for a local youth center, parachurch, sports team or after-school-program!

Here are a few pointers for how to begin establishing relationships with the fatherless children in your area:

1. Begin volunteering in your church’s youth ministry or at a local youth center, parachurch, sports team or after-school program. After you begin developing relationships with the kids in a particular setting, you’ll quickly begin to learn which kids don’t have a father!
2. Encourage your men’s ministry to start helping the single-moms in their congregation by doing house maintenance, car repair, etc…. Often times, this is an easy way to kill two birds with one stone. First, you are helping a single-mom, who arguably has one of the toughest jobs on the planet. Secondly, you are building trust with the kids in her home because they will see how you are helping their mom.

**Section 1: SAFETY**

At this point, you should open the “Volunteer Application Checklist” as well as the “Policy Handbook” on the Resource Portal.

For the safety of the children you mentor and for the success of your mentorship, it is imperative that you and your leaders receive proper training and are vetted properly.

Many of the best practices that we have established in our Policy Handbook are necessary in order to protect both the mentor and the mentee.

Background checks, references, safety training and mentor to mentee ratios are all extremely important. Equally important is understanding that fatherless children have often endured trauma. In order to protect them from further harm, often unintentionally, we highly recommend receiving a formal trauma informed mentorship training. We recommend TBRI, or at the bare minimum, you can take the 30 minute crash-course provided on our Resource Portal under “Trauma Informed Mentorship Course.”

At this point, I know that you are probably thinking that all of this seems a little overboard. I can assure you that all of these protocols have been implemented because of real-life experiences. You can trust that it’s worth the extra time and effort.

**Section 2:** **COVENANT**

So often, one of the biggest mistakes that I see mentors making is their lack of commitment to a particular child. They end up doing more harm than good because they deepen the father-wound that their mentee already has.

In order to thwart this mistake, we want you, the mentor, to sign the following covenant and commit to yourself and God that you and your leaders will mentor in the best way that you can. We want you to commit to being consistent in your mentee’s life. This is NOT a temporary relationship.

I, ,

have committed to being a consistent mentor to a fatherless child.

As a mentor, I will do my best to protect, nurture, and guide the child I choose to mentor. This pledge includes looking out for the child’s safety, future and spiritual development.

I will model involved, responsible, and committed fatherhood. I will lead by example and avoid activities or behaviors that would not set a good precedent for a child I choose to mentor.

I will keep my commitment to the child I choose to mentor, and I will strive to point them to our perfect Heavenly Father.

I desire to never stop growing and learning how to be a better father, mentor, and friend.

Signed:

Date:

**Section 3:** **GETTING PERMISSION**

After you identify the child you want to mentor, the first step is to get consent from the child’s mother or guardian.

Be very clear with the parent or guardian about the types of activities you would like to do with the child. It is very important to remember that even though you are an “experienced” dad that this is someone else’s child growing up with someone else’s rules.

Families have their own standards—which may differ from your own—including the kind of behaviors in children that they tolerate, the types of food that are appropriate to eat, and what is appropriate to view on television and at the movies. Have a candid conversation with the child’s parent or guardian about the guidelines that apply to your time together.

The second step is to plan what you will do with the child before every visit. Talk with the child or the child’s parent or guardian about the kinds of activities that the child is interested in.

**Section 4:** **STRATEGY**

At this time, we will be using the “4’s” located on the Resource Portal under “Printables.” These were borrowed from Matt Chandler and Adam Griffin’s book, *Family Discipleship.* We highly recommend that you read this book!

These are the four key guiding principles when mentoring:

1. **Time:** We have to spend ample time with our disciples. We recommend that you dedicate at least one hour per week and one weekend per month. We recommend splitting your time between Bible study, life skills and taking your student on an outdoor adventure.

2. **Modeling:** Ample time with our disciples allows us to model Christ to them. There is no better teacher than observation. Teach your student by allowing them to watch you live your life. Let them observe how you treat your spouse, how you work, how you play and how you serve.

3. **Moments:** Ample time with our disciples allows us to take advantage of opportune moments that pop-up. These moments allow us to teach as we walk together. For example, when your student makes a mistake, it provides a teachable moment. It also provides a chance to show them unconditional love. We like to tell our students, “There is nothing you can do to make me love you less.” If your student is struggling in school, it provides a teachable moment. If your student is fighting with his/her mom, it provides a teachable moment.

4. **Milestones:** We celebrate important milestones with our disciples. We celebrate birthdays and graduations; we initiate; we create ceremonies; we set goals and rewards. One of the most important milestones that we recommend structuring mentorship around is the initiation process into manhood and womanhood. We highly recommend that you read the book *Intentional Father* by Jon Tyson. You can find a clear example of a fruitful initiation tradition on our Resource Portal under “Initiation Materials.”

Next, we will be using the “5’s” located on the Resource Portal under “Printables.” These are the five categories that we recommend you focus intentionally on.

1**. Being His Child**

This component focuses on discovering what our true identity in Christ looks like, according to Scripture. How your student views God and how they think God views them is paramount! Initially, we recommend focusing your Bible study, affirmations, prayer time and book studies around this topic. A proper understanding of identity is the key to healing spiritual and emotional health.

2. **Understanding Your Uniqueness**

This component focuses on discovering the unique gifts, talents and idiosyncrasies that God gives each of us. During this phase of discipleship, we recommend that you focus on helping your student recognize how fearfully and wonderfully unique they are.

3. **Finding Your Calling**

This component focuses on discovering our vocational calling in Christ. During this phase of discipleship, we recommend that you focus on helping your student recognize their vocational calling. Seek to help them find their niche in the body of Christ.

4. **Washing Feet**

This component focuses on developing a missional mindset that inspires us to serve the Body of Christ as well as the world around us. During this phase of discipleship, we recommend that you focus on helping your student surrender more fully to the will of God. Seek to shift their mind from self to God’s purposes for their life. Help them see the tremendous suffering in the world and how God’s children are called to be His hands and feet.

5. **Get To Work**

This component focuses on action! During this phase of discipleship, we recommend that you focus on being the hands and feet of Jesus. Go serve alongside your student. Begin to call them into servant leadership!

**Section 5:** **CURRICULUM**

In this day and age, we are both blessed and cursed when it comes to curriculum. On one hand, technology gives us quick access to materials that we can leverage for mentorship. On the other hand, we are overwhelmed with a flood of resources, which makes it challenging to sort through.

After many years of mentoring fatherless youth, we have sorted through hundreds of books, movies and curriculum. We have sifted out the mediocre materials for you and would like to recommend what we believe are the best-of-the-best!

If you enter the Resource Portal, you’ll find all of the books, movies and curriculum described in the Mentorship Itinerary below.

Please keep in mind, the Mentorship Itinerary is a template for how to intentionally structure a mentorship plan-of-attack. There are plenty of variables that will force you to alter the itinerary. For example, you may not start mentoring your student until their sophomore year of high school. Or, your student might already be relatively mature in Christ and won’t need to start with the basics. Or, your student might have learning disabilities and will require creative alternatives to the book studies. The point is to use this as a template and prayerfully alter it as needed.

At the end of the day, we are trying to inspire you to be prayerful, methodical and intentional in your strategy for mentorship. We desire to provide you with solid resources and a solid plan of attack for successfully pouring into your student and raising him into the man of God that he is called to be.

We are pulling from many years of experience mentoring and initiating boys. Please note, if you are mentoring a girl, substitute the materials found in the Resource Portal where appropriate. Additionally, you’ll want to alter the initiation traditions to fit the needs of a girl.

**Section 6:** **MENTORING ITINERARY**

For the sake of ease, we will pretend that our student is 13 years old. He is in the 8th grade, and his name is Tim. He is familiar with Christianity but has not gone two feet in for Jesus. Again, keep in mind that this is an example itinerary.

A few things to consider:

1. Use the 4’s as your key guiding principles when mentoring.
2. Each year, your discipleship will focus on one of the 5’s. It will look like this:
   1. **Year 1:** Intentionally focus on “Being His Child”
   2. **Year 2:** Intentionally focus on “Understanding Your Uniqueness”
   3. **Year 3:** Intentionally focus on “Finding Your Calling”
   4. **Year 4:** Intentionally focus on “Washing Feet”
   5. **Year 5:** Intentionally focus on “Get to Work”
3. Throughout your time discipling your student, there are three activities that your time will be split between:
   1. **Biblical discipleship:** this is the most important activity and will consume approximately 70% of your time. This is comprised of a weekly checkup, prayer, Bible study, book studies, discussion and calls to action. See Appendix D for a template on how to do a Bible Study, how to Pray and how to have a Quite Time
   2. **Life Skills School (LSS):** this is where you have the privilege of teaching your student all of the skills that a biological dad should teach his son. This will include everything from changing the oil in your truck to balancing a checkbook. This will consume approximately 15% of your time.
   3. **Monthly Outdoor Adventure (MOA):** this is where you get to take your student on half day to week-long adventures. Some of these adventures will incorporate your Biblical discipleship time and a LSS lesson. For example, a long camping trip will foster deep discussion around the campfire. It will also provide opportunities to teach your student different ways of building a campfire. This will consume approximately 15% of your time.
4. Whenever possible, it is always a good idea to start each mentoring session with a checkup on your student. Checkups are an easy way to get the conversation going. Additionally, the checkup helps you document your student’s progress, hold them accountable to goals, understand what they are doing well and understand where they are struggling. The checkup template can be found on the Resource Portal under “Printables.” Here is what it looks like:



1. When you feel like they are ready to be initiated into manhood, begin the Walkabout initiation process. This most often takes place their sophomore or junior year of high school. More important than their age is that they are beginning to exhibit maturity—they are ready to go two-feet in for Christ and are ready to become a man.
2. When possible, include your own son/s in this journey. It will be a way of discipling them too. It will also show them what being missional looks like.
3. When possible, have your mentee spend time with your whole family. They need to feel like a member of the family. They need to see you interact with your spouse, your children, your parents, your neighbors, your pastor, etc...
4. Remember to send them home with homework for the next week. Hold them accountable.
5. Try to avoid missing a week. Consistency is key. Plus, we have noticed how easy it is to start missing weeks consistently once this pattern is started.
6. Remember to incorporate birthdays and special events into this process.
7. Focus on asking deep questions and listening.
8. Build trust before you begin offering advice.
9. Try to incorporate your student’s own hobbies and interests into your itinerary. If your student is not used to outdoor activities, slowly introduce them to him/her.

Year 1 Mentoring Itinerary:



Year 2 Mentoring Itinerary:



Year 3 Mentoring Itinerary:



Year 4 Mentoring Itinerary:



Year 5 Mentoring Itinerary:



# Conclusion

Relax! Don’t let yourself feel overwhelmed. Mentorship is not about how qualified you are. You don’t need a seminary degree and years of practice. Discipleship is for every person who knows Jesus. The most important thing is that you love God and you love your student. Do your best and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Make sure that you are also being discipled by someone so that you can ask questions about leading your student as issues arise. Give yourself permission to make mistakes. Keep going! Don’t quit!

Let’s pray!

HOLY HOLY HOLY FATHER in Heaven,

Please guide us. Please empower us. Please give us courage to disciple. Please fill us with your love so that we will help fill-in the gap for fatherless kids. Grant us favor in this great adventure. Help us to come alive in Christ as we endeavor to change the world. Bond us to our students in a way that reflects a father and a son.

To you be all the glory!

In Jesus’ name we pray! Amen!

# Appendix A

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**The Journey into Manhood!**

Dear Mentor,

This part of the OA curriculum is specifically meant to be completed in the months leading up to a Walkabout trip. Once students are selected to go on Walkabout, they should be paired with mentors and/or junior leaders who will be going on the Walkabout trip with them. They should complete this curriculum together! To honor the recommended mentor to student ratio, we recommend meeting weekly as a group and then breaking out into pairs where everyone is visible for the group leader to observe.

We highly recommend looking at the “War Room Brief” under the “rite of passage” section of the Resource Portal under Initiation Materials. This will help you prepare for providing your student the best experience for his rite of passage. I also highly recommend reading *The* *Intentional Father* by Jon Tyson. This book will bless your journey tremendously and help equip you for what’s ahead.

The curriculum is set up to be completed daily and discussed at weekly meetings between mentor and mentee. The curriculum spends one week on each of the Seven Principles of a Godly Man: Bible reading, Prayer, Integrity, Purity, Selflessness, Work Ethic and Chivalry. There will be a daily chapter to read from Scripture and then verse(s) with questions to answer. The lessons and discussions on the Walkabout trip will build on the topics studied here. For the optimal Walkabout experience, students and mentors should both complete the curriculum prior to Walkabout.

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Dear Student,

What is a RITE OF PASSAGE? It is a ceremony that marks an important transitional period in a person's life. For example, what is the rite of passage into the military? What is the rite of passage into a gang like the bloods?

One rite of passage that has been around longer than any other is the transition into manhood. The rite of passage into manhood can be seen in nearly every culture and throughout all of history. Just for fun, let’s look at some extremely bizarre examples—do NOT TRY ANY OF THESE AT HOME!!!

1. Men from the Vanuatu tribe participate in a harvest ritual called Land Diving. To become a man, you must jump from an 80 foot tall tower with nothing but a jungle vine strapped to your ankles. It’s similar to bungee jumping except you are required to hit the ground in order to become a man.



1. Centuries ago, young men from the Maasai tribe of Southern Kenya were required to hunt and kill a lion with a spear in order to become a man.

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So what is a Walkabout? A Walkabout is an ancient rite of passage practiced by the aboriginal people of Australia. Aboriginal people were similar to what we call Native Americans here in the United States of America. They were made up of tribes of people that lived off the land in the Australian outback. During a Walkabout, an aboriginal boy would journey into the wilderness for many days and could not return until he had become a man. Becoming a man was a spiritual journey, which required them to contemplate life. Essentially, it was a journey of self-discovery.

You are about to embark on a journey that you will never forget! Take this initiation seriously. To become a member of the Wolfpack Fraternity, you will have to be 100% engaged! You will be tested and approved.

Read this Scripture over and over again:

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.” *1 Corinthians* 13:11

Notice that it says, “I put away childish things.” Becoming a man is a choice, and it requires action and commitment on your part!

Please use your journal each day to answer the questions for that specific day. Each day, text someone in your pack (a mentor or fellow student) what God taught you that day. Meet with your mentor at least once per week. Call your mentor at least once per week.

Please complete your daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him. Ask Him to prepare you for the journey ahead. Walkabout will be the hardest thing you’ve ever done but also the most rewarding.

And remember, a wolf is only as strong as its pack. Rely on your spiritual brothers, your spiritual uncles and your spiritual father.

**A person standing on a pole

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**An aboriginal boy finishing his Walkabout quest in the deserts of the Australian Outback and becoming a man!**

# Week 1: Bible Reading

The Bible is God’s word to us. The BEST way to get to know God and follow him is by reading the Bible.

**Weekly Instructions:**

Use your journal - Each day answer the questions and write something you learned.

Each day, text your mentor, a leader, or fellow student what God taught you that day. Meet with your mentor at least once this week. Call your mentor at least once this week.

**Daily Instructions**: complete daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him.

**Day 1:**

Read: John 1, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Write: Do you believe the Bible is true? Do you believe it is the Word of God?

**Day 2:**

Read: John 2, Psalm 119:9-11, Psalm 119:105

Write: What do these verses say about the Bible? What should you do with it and what result does that have?

**Day 3:**

Read: John 3, Psalm 19:7-14

Write: What does this verse say our attitudes should be toward what God says?

**Day 4:**

John 4, Psalm 1

Write: What does this chapter say a righteous person does? And what is the result? Compare that to what the chapter says an unrighteous person does? What is the result?

**Day 5:**

Read: John 5, Isaiah 55:10-11

Write: What is the Bible compared to? What does that mean for your life?

**Day 6:**

Read: John 6, James 1:19-25

Write: What does James say about reading the Word? What does it mean to be a “doer of the Word”? How can you become a “doer” instead of a “hearer”?

**Day 7:**

Read: John 7, 1 Timothy 4:13

Write: What does this verse say you should devote/dedicate your life to?

# Week 2: Prayer

What is Prayer? It’s having a conversation with God. A surprising number of people say they don’t know how to pray. Maybe that’s you. Do you know how to talk to a friend or family member? It’s the same… Prayer is just talking to God. When you talk to God, you should include: Praise (tell God how great He is), Confession (tell God you’re sorry for your sins), Thanksgiving (thank God for the blessings He’s given you), Ask (ask God for things for yourself or others).

**Weekly Instructions:**

Use your journal - Each day, answer the questions and write something you learned.

Each day, text your mentor, a leader, or fellow student what God taught you that day. Meet with your mentor at least once this week. Call your mentor at least once this week.

**Daily Instructions**: complete daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him.

**Day 1:**

Read: John 8, Matthew 6:5-8 - What is prayer? It’s a conversation with God!

Write: What does this say about how to pray? How not to pray? What should our attitude be when praying?

**Day 2:**

Read: John 9, Matthew 6: 9-13 - This is called “The Lord’s Prayer”—it is the model prayer.

Write: Break down the prayer intro general categories of things to pray for! Write them down, then write your own prayer using each of these categories! (hint: the first category in verse 9 is Praise)

**Day 3:**

Read: John 10, Matthew 7:

Write: It’s critical when praying to believe that God loves you, knows what’s best for you, and will give you what is best! What comparison does Jesus give to illustrate this? Do you believe this? Why/why not?

**Day 4:**

Read: John 11, James 1:5-7

Write: What does he say to ask God for? How/what attitude should you ask with?

**Day 5:**

Read: John 12, James 5: 13-18

Write: What are the reasons/situations to pray? What does it say about the prayer of a righteous person? What is the example given (I Kings 17-19)?

**Day 6:**

Read: John 13, Philippians 4:4-7 –

Write: What attitude should we have (words like rejoice, thanksgiving)? Instead of worrying what should we do? And how should we do it? Why does this bring peace?

**Day 7:**

Read: John 14, I John 1:9 – Repenting

Write: Repenting/Confessing is saying “I’m sorry.” Why should we repent? What does it say God will do if we repent?

# Week 3: Integrity

Integrity is a big word. It means consistently being one person, the same person everywhere. Not being two-faced, not being a hypocrite. Being a man of integrity means no lying (not even little white lies), no stealing, no cheating, no making excuses. Integrity is the basis for people trusting us, depending on us, feeling safe around us.

**Weekly Instructions:**

Use your journal - Each day, answer the questions and write something you learned

Each day, text your mentor, a leader, or fellow student what God taught you that day. Meet with your mentor at least once this week. Call your mentor at least once this week.

**Daily Instructions**: complete daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him.

**Day 1:**

Read: John 15, Exodus 20:1-17 (especially 20:12-17) – The 10 commandments. The last 6 commandments are the bar for integrity (verses 12-17).

Write: Do you do any of these things? Be honest. Which ones do you struggle with? Write them down. (If you say none, that’s a lie so write down lying).

**Day 2:**

Read: John 16, Proverbs 10:9, 12:22, 19:1, 28:6 -

Write: What do these verses say about a person of integrity?

**Day 3:**

Read: John 17, Psalm 1, Psalm 119: 9-11.

Write: What do these verses say about how you should live?

**Day 4:**

Read: John 18, Titus 2:7-14

Write: What do these verses say to do, say to not do? What is the goal (verse 12)? Why is that important?

**Day 5:**

Read: John 19, proverbs 6:16-19

Write: Why do these things mentioned ruin your integrity? Do you trust people who do them? Do you expect people to trust you when you do them? Pick one of these things that you do… think through why you do it; does it work out; what is the result?

**Day 6:**

Read: John 20, Galatians 5-19-22 -

Write: Acts of the Flesh vs Fruit of the Spirit. Compare the two lists! What’s different about them? Everything right? As Christians our lives should look like the Fruits of the Spirit. Pick two or three that are a challenge for you. Think about and write down why they are hard. Pray and ask God to help you!

**Day 7:**

Read: John 21, Ephesians 4:25-32

Write: List the things these verses tell you to “Put off.” List the things it says to do instead! Which of these do you need to work on? Make a plan!

# Week 4: Purity

Purity is often used in the context of talking about sex or porn, Purity goes far beyond just abstaining from one sin. As Christ followers, we are to stay pure in THOUGHT, WORD, and DEED. In other words: what we think, what we say, what we do! This also applies to what we allow into our lives through our eyes (what we look at, watch on TV, view on Tiktok) and ears (what we listen to for music, what our friends say, etc).

**Weekly Instructions:**

Use your journal - Each day, answer the questions and write something you learned

Each day, text your mentor, a leader, or fellow student what God taught you that day. Meet with your mentor at least once this week. Call your mentor at least once this week.

**Daily Instructions**: complete daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him.

**Day 1:**

Read: Proverbs 1, 1 Peter 1:13-22.

Write: Holy - Set Apart - Pure. These three are very similar. Why is it important to “Be holy as I (God) am Holy” (verse 16)? How do you become pure (verse 22)?

**Day 2:**

Read: Proverbs 2, Matthew 15:11-20

Write: What makes a man impure (Verse 18-20)? Where do these desires come from? See also James 1:13-15, what is the progression of these desires?

**Day 3:**

Read: Proverbs 3, Matthew 5:27-30

Write: Jesus takes purity very seriously! He even says to cut out you eye or cut off your hand. He doesn’t mean to literally cut body parts off. He’s saying take it seriously if something is causing you to sin, cut that out. What in your life is causing you to sin? How can you cut that out of your life?

**Day 4:**

Read: Proverbs 4, Proverbs 6:20-32

Write: These verses speak VERY strongly about adultery… what is adultery? Looking at anyone other than your wife with lustful thoughts! Wow! What analogies are used to describe us when we do this? What does verse 32 say is the consequences of lust?

**Day 5:**

Read: Proverbs 5, Philippians 4:8 -

Write: Being a man of purity isn’t just about avoiding sins. What does this verse say you should focus on? Are you good at focusing on these things? List a couple you need to improve on!

**Day 6:**

Read: Proverbs 6, 1 Timothy 4:12

Write: Timothy was a teenager… Timothy is to set an example in 5 different things. What are they? Are you too young to set an example? Write down 3 people who look up to you (siblings? friends?) Who are you setting an example for?

**Day 7:**

Read: Proverbs 7, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Write: What does this verse say about being pure? What is the reason? And, what is the warning (verse 8)?

# Week 5: Selflessness

Men of integrity ARE selfless! What does that mean? That means they put others first; they help other people; they love other people; they offer forgiveness when wronged. Selfish people do the things on the list that we said compromised integrity and trust (lie, cheat, steal, murder, covet, greedy, jealous). What does being selfless actually mean and actually look like?

**Weekly Instructions:**

Use your journal - Each day, answer the questions and write something you learned

Each day, text your mentor, a leader, or fellow student what God taught you that day. Meet with your mentor at least once this week. Call your mentor at least once this week.

**Daily Instructions**: complete daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him.

**Day 1:**

Read: Proverbs 8, Philippians 2:3-8

Write: Who is the example of selfless, what did he do, and why/how can we live like He did?

**Day 2:**

Read: Proverbs 9, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Write: These verses list what love is and what love is not! Pick one of each. Think about one of the things love IS and write down how you can start showing love in that way. Think about one of the things love IS NOT and write down how you can stop doing that!

**Day 3:**

Read: Proverbs 10, Luke 10: 25-28 -

Write: Two commandments given here. What are they? What are some ways you can love your neighbor as yourself (your neighbor is pretty much anyone you meet)? See also Matthew 7:12—what does it mean to treat others how you want to be treated?

**Day 4:**

Read: Proverbs 11, Luke 10:25-37

Write: There’s several characters in this story… Who are you most like? Are you the one who passes by someone who needs help? Or, do you make great sacrifices to love people when it is very inconvenient or costly?

**Day 5:**

Read: Proverbs 12, Romans 12:9-17

Write: These verses say to “outdo each other in doing good” but it’s not a competition. These verses list MANY ways to outdo each other in doing good. Pick 3, write them down and write an action you can take to do that this week!

**Day 6:**

Read: Proverbs 13, Matthew 6:19-21,24

Write: A lot of times we are selfish with our treasures (money & things) instead of selfless. This is called greed. What does Jesus say happens when we hoard treasures on earth? What should we do instead?

**Day 7:**

Read: Proverbs 14, James 1:27 -

Write: What does this verse say is true religion? What is selfless about it? And how can you do that this week?

# Week 6: Work Ethic

Work Ethic is just as concerned about how you do your work as it is about what work you do! What is your motivation to work? What is your attitude while working? Are you pitching in willingly or slacking off? There are two categories of work: Physical and Spiritual. Physical work is school, a job, helping out at the house. Spiritual work is telling people about Jesus, helping people, serving at a church or ministry.

**Weekly Instructions:**

Use your journal - Each day, answer the questions and write something you learned.

Each day, text your mentor, a leader, or fellow student what God taught you that day. Meet with your mentor at least once this week. Call your mentor at least once this week.

**Daily Instructions**: complete daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him.

**Day 1:**

Read: Proverbs 15, Colossians 3:22-24

Write: What instructions does this give about how we should work? Who are you really working for? What is the real reward? And, how can that affect your attitude when your boss or teacher is unreasonable?

**Day 2:**

Read: Proverbs 16, Galatians 6:4-5

Write: As dudes, we constantly compare ourselves to others. You can always find someone better or worse to compare to! This is not Jesus’s way. How can you test your actions without comparing to others to see if you have good work ethic? Are you carrying your share of the load? Do you need to step up more at work, school or home? Write actions you will commit to this week!

**Day 3:**

Read: Proverbs 17, Proverbs 6:6-11 -

Write: Laziness, procrastination is not good work ethic. What do these verses say about being lazy? What is the end result (verse 10-11)? What does it mean to resist being passive? Write several actions you will take to be less lazy!

**Day 4:**

Read: Proverbs 18, Ephesians 2:8-10 -

Write: What does Verse 10 say God has prepared for us to do? This is Spiritual Work and the most important work you will do! God has called you to love others, to tell them about Him, to be his ambassador (representative). Are you representing God well? Write down examples of good works God has prepared for you and then go do them!

**Day 5:**

Read: Proverbs 19, James 4:17

Write: If you know what is right and don’t do it, that is sin!! At school or work, how are you cutting corners, slacking off, etc…? That is sin! Write it down, tell God you’re sorry and commit to change!

**Day 6:**

Read: Proverbs 20, 1 Peter 3:15-17 -

Write: Part of our “work” as Christians is representing Jesus to people who don’t know Him. What does this verse say about that? How does that affect our jobs, school and attitudes? What area do you need to improve?

**Day 7:**

Read: Proverbs 21, Matthew 28:18-20

Write: One “Job” of every Christian is to make disciples (more Christ followers). Who do you know that you can start talking to about Jesus (write down a name)? How can you start those conversations (write an action)?

# Week 7: Chivalry

Chivalry is an old word that we don’t use all that often anymore. It was used to describe the character/behavior expected of a knight: courage, honor, courtesy, justice, and a readiness to help the weak. Think of a prince or king: a warrior courageously fighting at war but dignified and honorable at home in his castle. We are going to study some of the character qualities that a chivalrous man displays.

**Weekly Instructions:**

Use your journal - Each day, answer the questions and write something you learned.

Each day, text your mentor, a leader, or fellow student what God taught you that day.

Meet with your mentor at least once this week. Call your mentor at least once this week.

**Daily Instructions**: Complete daily chapter, daily reading and answer daily question(s).

Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you more about Him.

**Day 1:**

Read: Proverbs 23, Joshua 1:1-9.

Discussion: Courage: the ability to do something that frightens you.

Write: Joshua had just taken over leading the nation of Israel. How many times does God say to be “strong and courageous”? Where does the courage come from? What area of your life is lacking courage? Write a prayer asking God to give you courage.

**Day 2:**

**Read:** Proverbs 24, Proverbs 11:3,

**Discussion:** To show honor is “showing esteem for one deserving of respect, attention, or obedience”. To have honor or to be honorable is to be esteemed as one deserving of respect, attention or obedience.”

**Write:** Are you an honorable person? Why or why not? Do you show honor to others? How do you show honor to someone you “don’t like”? Explain!

**Day 3:**

**Read:** Proverbs 25, Philippians 2:2-4,

**Discussion:** Courtesy is being kind/polite/considerate. Basically, putting others first (sound a lot like selflessness?)

**Write:** What do these verses say? How can you do what they say? Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” The next 3 days we’ll look at 3 things: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

**Day 4:**

**Read:** Proverbs 26, Deuteronomy 10:17-18, Proverbs 29:7, Psalm 37:27-29, Romans 12:19.

**Discussion:** Justice means “to make right”. To do justice means you fight for what is right! We demand justice in court, which means the guilty are punished and the innocent are set free.

**Write:** What is the difference between justice and revenge? Why is justice good and revenge bad? Write specific ways you can do justice or fight for justice!

**Day 5:**

**Read:** Proverbs 27, Matthew 18:21-22, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13, Daniel 9:9.

**Discussion:** Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within your power to punish or harm. Forgiveness may be the hardest thing you’ll every do! We are to Love mercy

**Write:** What do these verses say about mercy? What do they say about forgiving? Where do mercy and forgiveness come from? Who do you need to show mercy toward? Write it down!

**Day 6:**

**Read:** Proverbs 28, 1 Peter 5:5-7, James 4:6-10, proverbs 11:2.

**Discussion:** Walking humbly means recognizing that all our strengths and abilities come from God. Without God, we are nothing but sinners, but because of Christ, we are sons of God! Humility is not self-deprecation, being insecure or being weak. It is walking confidently—not because of my accomplishments, but because my Dad is the God of the Universe!

**Write:** What do these verses say about being humble? Describe God’s attitude toward the humble: How is that different from the proud? Are you prideful or humble? Explain…

**Day 7:**

Read: Proverbs 29, James 1:27

Write: What does this verse say “true religion” is? How can you practice those things in your life?

# Appendix B

Read this creed every day of the Walkabout. Use the daily topics to guide discussion during travel time, during morning breakfasts and around the campfire. Each night, have one mentor and one student share their testimony. Present the Gospel when the moment is right.

*Logo

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**Creed**

1. As a member of the Wolfpack, I belong wholly to Jesus Christ, who alone gives me my identity as a son of the Father. 2. I commit to depending on Him, following Him, and submitting to His greater purposes in every area of my life. I will strive to abide daily in the Lord and His Word. 3. I will seek out and entrust myself to the counsel of godly men through every season of my life.

4. I will reflect my identity as God’s son through living a holy life. 5. I commit to living a life of honesty and integrity in all areas of my life. I commit to working hard at everything I do working for the Lord and not for the recognition of men. I commit to living a life of purity not perverting God’s gift of sex for the pursuit of self-gratification. I commit to selflessly and faithfully serving my brothers and sisters in Christ putting their needs above my own. As a Spiritual patriarch, I will provide vision, direction and leadership for my future family, putting their needs above my own and staying emotionally engaged and physically available to them. I will love my wife as Christ loves the Church. I will pursue her and serve her until parted by death. I will raise my children in imitation of my heavenly Father as I love, protect and disciple them.

6. I may fall in this journey, but I will not stay down. I will commit to coming clean immediately if I realize I’ve done so. I reject the lure of passivity, and I commit to living courageously, doing what is right despite my fear or lack of desire. I am a full-fledged member of the pack, and in Christ alone I stand. I am a full-fledged member of the pack, and by His grace I will help advance God’s Kingdom into all the world.

# Appendix C

**Walkabout Curriculum**

**Day 1:** Travel Day

**Task:** Read the Wolfpack Creed out loud (ignore the last sentence until graduation)

**Focus:** Discuss the statement, “I belong wholly to Jesus Christ, who alone gives me my identity as a son of the Father.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **What is identity?**
2. **Why is it important?**
3. **What is true about my identity?**
4. **How do I know it’s true?**
5. **Where do I get my identity from?**
6. **Who does God say I am?**
7. **Who do I say God is?**
8. **Why does any of this matter?**
9. **What does this have to do with becoming a man?**
10. **How can this help me heal?**
11. **How can I prove any of this?**

**\*Scavenger Hunt: have the Bible downloaded for off-line use on your YouVersion App. Have everyone search for what the Bible has to say about this.**

**Day 2:** At Base Camp

**Task:** Read the Wolfpack Creed out loud (ignore the last sentence until graduation)

**Focus:** Discuss the statements, “I commit to depending on Him, following Him, and submitting to His greater purposes in every area of my life. I will strive to abide daily in the Lord and His Word.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **What is a commitment?**
2. **Is it important to stick to commitments?**
3. **Should we make commitments without counting the cost?**
4. **What does it mean to take up your cross daily and follow Jesus?**
5. **What does it mean to follow Jesus?**
6. **What does it mean to submit to Him?**
7. **What are His greater purposes?**
8. **How do we abide in the Lord and His word?**
9. **What is a disciple?**
10. **What does it mean to be His disciple?**

**Day 3:** Driving to the trail and starting to hike

**Task:** Read the Wolfpack Creed out loud (ignore the last sentence until graduation)

**Focus:** Discuss the statement, “I will seek out and entrust myself to the counsel of godly men through every season of my life.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **What does it mean to “seek out”?**
2. **What part do you play in this?**
3. **What does it mean to “entrust”?**
4. **What is counsel?**
5. **How long should your entrusted mentorship relationship last?**
6. **What are some ways to ensure this relationship lasts?**
7. **Who would you want to be your life-long mentor?**
8. **What do you expect from you mentor?**
9. **What do you desire from your mentor?**
10. **What does your mentor want from you?**

**\*Activity:** Remember to share testimonies around the campfire.

**Day 4:** Camping

**Task:** Read the Wolfpack Creed out loud (ignore the last sentence until graduation)

**Focus:** Discuss the statement, “I will reflect my identity as God’s son through living a holy life.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **Are you God’s son?**
2. **How does He see you?**
3. **What is your identity?**
4. **How should you reflect your identity?**
5. **What is holy?**
6. **What does God require?**
7. **How do we live a holy life?**
8. **What do we do if we make mistakes?**
9. **Do we sin intentionally knowing that we can ask God for forgiveness later?**
10. **What are the benefits of living a holy life?**
11. **What are the challenges of living a holy life?**
12. **What are the rewards of living a holy life?**

**\*Activity:** Remember to share testimonies around the campfire.

**Day 5:** Camping and midnight hike out

**Task:** Read the Wolfpack Creed out loud (ignore the last sentence until graduation)

**Focus:** Discuss the statements, “I commit to living a life of honesty and integrity in all areas of my life. I commit to working hard at everything I do working for the Lord and not for the recognition of men. I commit to living a life of purity not perverting God’s gift of sex for the pursuit of self-gratification. I commit to selflessly and faithfully serving my brothers and sisters in Christ putting their needs above my own. As a Spiritual patriarch I will provide vision, direction and leadership for my future family, putting their needs above my own and staying emotionally engaged and physically available to them. I will love my wife as Christ loves the Church. I will pursue her and serve her until parted by death. I will raise my children in imitation of my heavenly Father as I love, protect and disciple them.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **See if anyone can recite the 7’s from memory.**
2. **What are some areas where you need to improve your integrity?**
3. **What are some areas where you need to improve your work-ethic?**
4. **What are some areas where you need to improve your purity?**
5. **What are some areas where you need to improve your selflessness?**
6. **What are some areas where you need to improve your chivalry?**
7. **What do you hope for when you think about marriage?**
8. **What kind of husband do you want to be?**
9. **How is it possible to stay married for a lifetime?**
10. **What kind of father do you want to be?**
11. **What kind of father do you NOT want to be?**
12. **How do you ensure you become the husband and father that you want to be?**
13. **How will you lead your family?**
14. **What will the implications of this be for your kids and your grandkids?**
15. **How will you rely on God to accomplish this?**

**\*Activity:** During the hike out, focus on pushing the boys to dig deep and work together. Continue to share testimonies. This is a time that should serve as the pinnacle memory before the graduation ceremony. Find ways to make it memorable. Speak affirmations to the boys. Push them. Challenge them. Show them love.

**Day 6:** At Base Camp

**Task:** Read the Wolfpack Creed out loud (ignore the last sentence until graduation)

**Focus:** Discuss the statements, “I may fall in this journey, but I will not stay down. I will commit to coming clean immediately if I realize I’ve done so. I reject the lure of passivity, and I commit to living courageously, doing what is right despite my fear or lack of desire.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **Are you willing to commit to never quitting?**
2. **Are you willing to be honest no matter how hard you fall?**
3. **How do you expect your mentor to handle it when you make a mistake?**
4. **How do you hope that they would handle it?**
5. **How can you hold each other accountable?**
6. **What steps do you need to take to form better habits at home?**
7. **What can your mentor do to help you win!?**

**Day 6 Continued:** Graduation

**Task:** Read the Wolfpack Creed out loud (including the last sentence)**. Have each graduate agree to the creed and sign the covenant book. This is a time for any of the unsaved to hear the Gospel again. We are ok with graduating students who are not ready to fully commit to Jesus but are fully ready to become a man. Our hope is that they would commit to both!**

**Day 7:** Travel home

**Take a break from the curriculum and let the conversation flow naturally.**

# Appendix D

**A Template for Bible Study**

When you study a passage of Scripture, a basic but helpful pattern to follow is the threefold process of observation, interpretation and application.

**Observation:** Observe what the passage is saying and describing.

First, read through a portion of Scripture. Then, go back and make some initial observations about it: What’s going on? Where is this taking place? Who is speaking? Who is this about? What is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, event or teaching? When do/will the events occur or when did/will something happen to someone? Where did or will this happen? Where was it said? Why is something being said or mentioned? Why did/will this happen? How will it happen? How is it to be done? Try to keep an eye out for key words or phrases, repeated words, contrasts and comparisons, and terms of summary and conclusion (“so that,” “for this reason,” and so on).

**Interpretation:** Try to understand the overall meaning.

From what you’ve learned in your observation of the text, you are trying to discern a primary meaning of the passage—what the biblical author was seeking to communicate and what God was seeking to communicate through that biblical author. A particularly fruitful way to pull these things out of the passage is to ask questions such as: What sinful, broken, or fallen condition is being addressed or corrected by the passage? What is the deeper sin beneath the behavior? What prompted the author to write this passage? Keeping these questions in mind can help you uncover the primary meaning of the text.

**Application:** How does the passage apply to you and to others? And what are some actions you need to take in order to apply God’s Word directly to your life? Often a more significant application resides at the level of our relating to God—our experiencing His grace or trusting in His character or promises. In light of this, pray through these questions:

• God, what are You trying to say to me through this passage?

• In what ways am I looking to find life in things besides You, Lord?

• In what ways am I seeking to earn Your favor rather than live by grace?

• What do my actions suggest that I’m wrongly believing about Your character, our relationship, and what You’ve said in Your Word?

• In what ways do we need to be more intimate in our relationship?

• In what way is Jesus the answer to my problem?

**A Template for Prayer**

When I spend time reading Scripture, I often find that I have an intense desire to talk with God before I’m even finished reading the passage. I’ll read about God’s mercy and want to thank Him for His mercy. Or I’ll read something about God’s power and glory and want to tell Him again how awesome He is. Sometimes God’s holiness comes through the passage and I’ll feel the need to confess some sin that comes to my mind or some attitude I’ve had hidden in my heart that doesn’t reflect His character.

By spending time in God’s Word, we open ourselves up to His voice, and He can speak to us directly—something He often does. Prayer is a natural response to God’s work in our lives. A helpful model for me as I respond to God in prayer is the ACTS model: adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.

**Adoration:** Telling God how great He is, why He’s great (merciful, kind and so on), and how much we love Him for it.

**Confession:** Acknowledging to God any known sin that is displeasing to Him so that we can come to Him unhindered, completely surrendered and cleansed.

**Thanksgiving:** Thanking God for His grace and forgiveness in our lives and thanking Him for all the things He’s done for us and has given to us.

**Supplication:** Asking God for things that we want.

Let me give you some reassurance about this last piece of the puzzle: supplication. Once your heart and mind are in alignment with God, it’s okay to go ahead and ask Him for stuff—personal stuff, physical stuff, an A on your statistics paper, whatever. He wants you to come to Him with everything. There’s nothing too big, nothing too small, so ask away, no matter how ridiculous you think it sounds. And the closer you grow to God through praying and reading Scripture, the better you will get at discerning His will for you, at knowing what He wants you to pray for. This is prayer that moves mountains.

Using this pattern of ACTS has helped me when I’ve not had the desire to pray. I’ve had to jump-start with ACTS when I’ve been confused, weary, sad, depressed and outright weak. I just say to myself, “Okay, adoration, right.” Then I begin to pray, “God, You are greater than I am.” On many occasions, ACTS has guided me into an intimate time with the Lord when an intimate time with the Lord seemed impossible.

**A Template for Quiet Times**

The template for our quiet times, then, is as simple as combining our template for studying the Scripture and our ACTS template for prayer. But with one little nuance: sandwiching your Scripture reading between the parts of the prayer so that you’re praying before and after.

It looks like this:

• Talk to God.

o Adoration: “Lord, I praise You for ... ” (some quality or attribute of God).

o Confession: “Lord, forgive me for ... ” (some sin or shortcoming).

• Listen to God.

o Prayerfully read a passage. What does it say?

o Prayerfully reflect on its meaning. What does it mean?

o Prayerfully apply it to life. What does it mean for me?

• Talk to God.

o Thanksgiving: “Lord, I thank You for ... ” (some specific blessing).

o Supplication: “Lord, I ask You for ... ” (requests for yourself and others).

Talk to God, listen to God, and then talk to God again. It’s that easy.

If you get used to this basic template and get used to meeting with God every day, you’ll be feeling closer to God, living in His grace, growing in holiness, maturing in your understanding of His Word, experiencing His forgiveness — rewarding stuff. But remember, the key to all of this is creating the habit and being intentional. Make time each day when this routine can and will take place.

*These templates were written by Tom Hudzina and found on www.cru.org*